

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-13 and 30-36 in their entirety without prejudice nor disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein.

Please amend claims 14-29, 37 and 38 as follows:

1. – 13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) A ~~preparing~~ method ~~for~~ of preparing a sample for quantification from a biological sample, which is to be used for quantifying elements to be quantified in said biological sample, said method ~~characterized in~~ comprising a step of mixing an unknown volume of biological sample collected without quantifying a volume thereof with a specified volume of an aqueous solution.

15. (Currently amended) A ~~preparing~~ method in accordance with claim 14, in which said specified volume of aqueous solution contains a specified amount of indicating material.

16. (Currently amended) A ~~preparing~~ method in accordance with claim 14, ~~characterized in~~ further comprising a step of adding a specified volume of aqueous solution containing a specified amount of indicating material.

17. (Currently amended) A ~~preparing~~ method in accordance with claim 14, in which said indicating material is a pigment or a chromogen.

18. (Currently amended) A ~~preparing~~ method in accordance with claim 17, in which said chromogen is an oxidative coloring type chromogen.

19. (Currently amended) A ~~preparing~~ method in accordance with claim 14, in which said biological sample is either one of a whole blood, a blood plasma or a blood serum.

20. (Currently amended) A ~~preparing~~ method in accordance with claim 14, in which said aqueous solution is a buffer solution.

21. (Currently amended) A ~~preparing~~ method in accordance with claim 14, in which said elements to be quantified are elements in the blood serum.

22. (Currently amended) A ~~quantifying~~ method ~~for~~ of quantifying elements to be quantified in a biological sample, said method ~~characterized in~~ including using a sample for

quantification prepared by a preparing method comprising a step of mixing an unknown volume of biological sample collected without quantifying a volume thereof with a specified volume of an aqueous solution containing a specified amount of indicating material.

23. (Currently amended) A ~~quantifying~~ method in accordance with claim 22, in which said unknown volume of biological sample collected without quantifying a volume thereof is mixed with a specified volume of aqueous solution.

24. (Currently amended) A ~~quantifying~~ method in accordance with claim 22, said method ~~characterized in~~ further comprising the steps of:

determining a dilution ratio of said biological sample in said sample for quantification; and
quantifying a concentration of elements to be quantified in said sample for quantification.

25. (Currently amended) A ~~quantifying~~ method in accordance with claim 22, in which said indicating material is a pigment or a chromogen.

26. (Currently amended) A ~~quantifying~~ method in accordance with claim 25, in which said chromogen is an oxidative coloring type chromogen.

27. (Currently amended) A ~~quantifying~~ method in accordance with claim 22, in which said biological sample is either one of a whole blood, a blood plasma or a blood serum.

28. (Currently amended) A ~~quantifying~~ method in accordance with claim 22, in which said aqueous solution is a buffer solution.

29. (Currently amended) A ~~quantifying~~ method in accordance with claim 22, in which said elements to be quantified are elements in the blood serum.

Claims 30 – 36 (Cancelled)

37. (Currently amended) A ~~quantifying~~ method ~~for~~ of quantifying elements to be quantified in a biological sample, said method comprising the steps of:

1) preparing a sample for quantification composed of an unknown volume of biological sample containing elements to be quantified, which has been collected without quantifying a volume thereof, and a specified volume of an aqueous solution containing a specified amount of indicating material;

2) determining a dilution ratio (a) of said biological sample from a concentration (C_1)

of the indicating material in said specified volume of aqueous solution containing said specified amount of indicating material and a concentration (C_2) of the indicating material in said sample for quantification;

3) determining a concentration (Y) of the elements to be quantified in said sample for quantification; and

4) determining the elements to be quantified in the biological sample based on the dilution ratio (a) of the biological sample determined in the step 2) and said concentration (Y) of the elements to be quantified in the sample for quantification determined in the step 3).

38. (Currently amended) A ~~quantifying~~ method in accordance with claim 37, in which said aqueous solution is a buffer solution.

39. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 37, in which said indicating material is a pigment or a chromogen.

40. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 39, in which said chromogen is an oxidative coloring type chromogen.

41. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 39, in which an absorptivity (E_1) of said specified volume of aqueous solution containing said specified amount of indicating material and an absorptivity (E_2) of said sample for quantification are used in substitution for C_1 and C_2 respectively.
